## LXXXVII. *A further Account of the late* Plague *at* Conſtantinople, *in a Letter of* *Dr.* Mackenzie *from thence, of the* 23 *of* April 1752, *to* John Clephane, *M. D. F. R. S.*

Read June 18, 1752.

AS a corollary to my former account ſent to Dr. Mead, pleaſe to know, that, on January 3, 1752, there was an accident of the plague, when the thermometer was at 53. Jan. 24, another accident, therm. 52. Jan. 26, an accident at Buiukdere, therm. 51. Feb. 8, accidents at Caſſim, Pacha, and Phanar, therm. 52. Feb. 10, an accident in Galata, therm. 55; patient recover'd. Feb. 15, another accident in the ſame houſe, therm. 53. March 8, an accident in Galata, therm. 56; and not one accident ſince, tho' at preſent the thermometer is at 50, and has been at 44 the 16 inſtant; ſo that we have great hopes to get clear, if no infection is convey'd to us from any other quarter.

To ſatisfy you, how I came to be ſo exact in dates, it is proper to inform you, that I have kept, ever ſince I have been in Turkey, a journal of the thermometer, barometer, winds, weather, diſeaſes, and other events; which I mark down exactly twice every 24 hours.

Proſper Alpinus obſerves, that the Eteſian winds at Cairo remove the plague intirely; ſo that they fear nothing after theſe winds begin. And I can aſſure, *bona fide*, that all the plagues, which have been at Smyrna and Conſtantinople for the laſt twenty

years, have been hotteſt and moſt violent during the ſeaſon of the Eteſian winds; ſtill allowing, that, were it not for the Eteſian winds, the plague would be more violent in the hot months. Witneſs the 24 of June 1735, there being no wind, the ſickneſs ravaged more than any other day, while it laſted.

I return you many thanks for ſhewing my remarks to the Royal Society. I am ſenſible they have no other merit imaginable, beſides their being true, which may be a motive for ſome of the beſt taſte to reliſh them.

As I hear there is a bill to be brought into parliament to regulate quarantines, I will give my humble opinion of them, as they ought to be obſerved in Great-Britain and Ireland.

1. It ſeems to me uſeleſs to put a ſhip's company from the Levant in quarantine in Britain. For how is it poſſible, that men, who have been one or two months at ſea, toſs'd about with different winds and weathers, and arriving, after ſuch a time, in good health in England, can have any infection in their bare bodies? Wherefore, as ſoon as they arrive, they ſhould be ſtripp'd naked, and have clean linen and cloaths put on, and then ſent immediately aſhore. This would ſave to the owners of ſhips theſe ſailors wages and victuals during the quarantine; and the ſailors might go to ſea again, without eating the bread of idleneſs for ſo many days. The caſe is different in Italy, and in the ſouth of France; to which countries a ſhip with a fair wind may perform a voyage in eight days from the Levant; during which time a perſon may have the plague about

him, without being confin'd to his bed; of which there are many inſtances.

2. There ſhould be found very honeſt men to be overſeers of the lazaretto, who will take the trouble of ſeeing all the goods unbaled, and every particular parcel expoſed to the air: Otherwiſe, if the goods remain in the ſame place, and every ſhred not expoſed to the air, they may be as well in the merchants magazines as in the lazaretto.

3. No perſon, during quarantine, ſhould be allow'd to go near the lazaretto, excepting ſuch as have the care of it; for fear ſtrangers, going too near, may receive infection from the goods in the lazaretto, and, at their return, communicate it to others.

4. There ſhould be one or more doctors to attend the lazaretto, and take care of the people, who look after it, in caſe any of them ſhould be ſick, that their ſickneſs may immediately be known: And, ſhould it prove contagious, the patient ſhould be ſeparated, and ſo the infection, as much as poſſible, hindred from ſpreading.

5. The ſhips ſhould be very well clean'd and perfum'd in the hold, and between decks, where the goods lay during the voyage, for ſome days after they are unloaden. Otherwiſe perſons going into the hold of the ſaid ſhips, may be infected, and communicate the infection to others. This I communicate to you, as you have an opportunity of converſing with ſeveral members of parliament.